

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00162 191043Z

60

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 IO-11 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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R 190645Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4958

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0162

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SF, ZA, CG, IIV AO, PFOR

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA LINKED TO ZAMBIA,ZAIRE AND IVORY
COAST IN ANGOLA INVOLVEMENT

REF: LUSAKA 0397

FEBRUARY 16 :-PE TIMES FRONTPAGE ARTICLE QUOTING STORY WHICH
IS APPARENTLY SAME AS THAT REFERRED TO IN LUSAKA'S 0397,
ALTHOUGH LUSAKA VERSION SEEMS SHORTER AND SOMEWHAT GARBLED.
MATERIAL ATTRIBUTED TO SENTAOR'S TUNNEY'S AIDE WILLIAM
COUGHLIN. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT SAME ARTICLE ALSO
PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON. FULL TEXT OF CAPE TIMES ARTICLE
FOLLOWS:

'THE CAPE TIEMS', MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16,1976, 'SAVIMBI:
SA WAS 'PAINFULLY CORRECT'.

'POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

UNITA LEADER, DR. JONAS SAVIMBI'S ACCOUNT OF SOUTH
AFRICA'S FOUR-MONTH INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA WAS DISCLOSED
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00162 191043Z

IN A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON PUBLISHED YESTERDAY IN THE

PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER RAPPORT.

THE REPORT REVEALED THAT DR. SAVIMBI HAD VISITED SOUTH AFRICA TWICE IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS TO PLEAD FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE ANGOLAN WAR. RECORDS OF A MEETING BETWEEN DR. SAVIMBO AND A UNITED STATES SENATE ASSISTANT, MR. BILL COUGHLIN, WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE'S AFRICA COMMITTEE THIS WEEK.

DR. SAVIMBO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD AT ALL TIMES ACTED 'PAINFULLY CORRECTLY' AND HAD AT NO STAGE TAKEN MILITARY ACTION WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF ZAIRE, ZAMBIA AND THE IVORY COAST.

HE SAID THAT BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR HE HAD REALIZED THAT HE NEEDED MILITARY HELP TO COMBAT THE CUBAN TROOPS FIGHTING WITH THE MPLA.

SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES, DR. SAVIMBA SAID, WERE AT THAT STAGE CONCENTRATED AT THE DAM ON THE KUNENE RIVER.

HE FLEW TO ZAIRE TO ASK HELP FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU, WHO PROVIDED UNITA WITH 11 MANNED PANZERS. IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER PRESIDENT MOBUTU MADE IT KNOWN THAT THERE WAS AN 'AMERICAN FRIEND' WHO WANTED TO HELP.

THE AMERICAN SAID THAT NO UNITED STATES TROOPS WOULD BE SUPPLIED, BUT THAT AID WOULD BE PROVIDED TO ZAIRE. LIGHT AMERICAN WEAPONS WERE RECEIVED BUT THESE WERE NOT SUFFICIENT SINCE AT THE SAME TIME DR. SAVIMBI APPROACHED PRESIDENT KAUNDA, PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND REQUESTED THEM TO ASK SOUTH AFRICA TO PROVIDE SECRET ASSISTANCE.

SOON AFTERWARDS A SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE OF BETWEEN 1,200 AND 1,500 MEN BEGAN MOVING UP THE COAST TO PORT AMBOINE, ABOUT 150 KM SOUTH OF LUANDA.

THE FNLA FORCES WERE ALREADY IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF LUANDA AND, ACCORDING TO MR. COUGHLIN, THIS IS THE POINT WHERE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00162 191043Z

THE RUSSIANS POURED IN MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND THOUSANDS OF CUBAN TROOPS TO SUPPORT THE MPLA.

AT THE END OF NOVEMBER ABOUT 50 SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS WENT TO ASSIST UNITA IN CENTRAL ANGOLA. AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO THE CUBAN FIRE POWER, THE SOUTH AFRICANS CALLED FOR REINFORCEMENTS AND THE NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN CENTRAL ANGOLA TOTALLED 200.

IN DECEMBER SOUTH AFRICA TOLD SAVIMBI THAT ITS TROOPS WERE TO BE WITHDRAWN. IT WAS SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT GET THE EXPECTED SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THAT IT COULD NOT FIGHT THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS ALONE. FURTHER SOUTH AFRICAN REINFORCEMENTS COULD NOT BE PROVIDED WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT, DR. SAVIMBI WAS TOLD.

AT THIS POINT, DR. KAUNDA ARRANGED A MEETING BETWEEN DR. SAVIMBI AND MR. VORSTER IN PRETORIA ON DECEMBER 20. AFTER THIS SOUTH AFRICA REMAINED IN ANGOLA IN A DEFENSIVE CAPACITY.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMANDER TOLD DR. SAVIMBI THAT HIS TROOPS WERE PULLING OUT OF CELA FOR GOOD. DR. SAVIMBI AGAIN FLEW TO LUSAKA AND ANOTHER MEETING WAS ARRANGED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES, THIS TIME IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD REMAIN IN ANGOLA UNTIL AFTER THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY MEETING.

ON JANUARY 21, AFTER THE OAU MEETING, SOUTH AFRICA INFORMED HIM THAT ALL SOLDIERS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND WITHIN 48 HOURS THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD PULLED BACK TO THE DAM IN THE FAR SOUTH OF ANGOLA.

ACCORDING TO RAPPORT, MR. COUGHLIN READ FROM THE NOTES OF HIS MEETING WITH DR. SAVIMBI WHEN HE DIVULGED HIS DETAILS TO THE NEWSPAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT. MR. COUGHLIN ALSO HAD TALKS IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH MR. BRAND FOURIE, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CAPE T 00162 191043Z

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. JAPIE BASSON, THE UNITED PARTY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, AND DR. F. VAN ZYL SLABBERT, THE PROGRESSIVE-REFORM PARTY'S CHIEF SPOKESMAN ON DEFENSE.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE MR. P.W. BOTHA, LAST NIGHT DECLINED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE ACCURACY OF THE NEWSPAPER'S REPORT.'

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